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STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS IN SCHOOL



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Ghana



Research undertaken by ActionAid in 12 countries across Africa and Asia in 2004 shows that violence against girls in school constitutes a major challenge to girls' school enrolment, retention and educational performance.

ActionAid Ghana believes that violence against girls is an urgent priority that must be addressed to enable Ghana to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on education and gender parity and the Education for All (EFA) goals by 2015.



With the support of the UK's Big Lottery Fund, ActionAid International has recently launched a new and innovative multi-country project called Stop Violence Against Girls in School which is being run simultaneously in Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique. The project aims to protect girls' rights to and in education by promoting a violence-free school environment and improving girls' enrolment, retention and achievement levels.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Stop Violence Against Girls in School (SVAGS) project was launched in Ghana in August 2008 and is currently being implemented in 13 communities and schools in the Nanumba North and Nanumba South Districts of the Northern Region of Ghana.

ActionAid Ghana is working in close collaboration with a number of national partner organizations – Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC) and Songtaba among others. The project is combining research, advocacy and community-level initiatives to improve girls' access to and achievement in education. The programmes will also create opportunities for girls' empowerment and establish lasting basis for transformation of gender relations in schools and communities.

This five-year initiative which started in July 2008 and will run until the end of June 2013, focuses on achieving the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: A legal and policy framework that specifically addresses VAGS exists and is being implemented at all levels by the end of the project.

Outcome 2: Violence against girls by family members, teachers and peers in the intervention districts is reduced by 50% from baseline statistics by the end of the project.

Outcome 3: In the portfolio intervention districts, enrolment of girls is increased by an average of 30%, girls' drop out rate decreases by an average of 30% and substantial progress is made towards gender parity in education by the end of the project.

Outcome 4: 1,075 girls in the portfolio intervention districts demonstrate the confidence to challenge the culture of violence in and around schools, report incidents and create peer support networks by the end of the project.

The following activities will be undertaken at national and community levels:

Community awareness and sensitization campaigns intended to:

- Sensitise communities on the effects of violence against girls in school
- Mobilise communities including parents, traditional authorities and local government agencies to institute actions to prevent violence against girls in schools.
- Work with local and national media to run campaigns on violence against girls in school.
- Mobilise girls who have dropped out of school to return to school

Creation of girl-friendly school environments through:

- Construction of toilet facilities for 6 schools in Nanumba.
- Establishment of girls' clubs and development of programmes to empower girls.
- Promotion of the dissemination and use of a national teachers' Code of Conduct.

Training and capacity-building intended to:

- Train School Management Committees (SMC) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) members and other parents on issues on violence against girls, girls' rights and protection.
- Facilitate training of teachers and education authorities on gender-responsive teaching approaches.
- Train law enforcement agencies, media and community leaders to effectively respond to cases of violence against girls.





National level Advocacy for change in policies and practice:

building strong collaborative partnerships and networks with key stakeholders and allies to

- Ensure the dissemination and use of the teachers' Code of Conduct
- Lobby government to develop and enforce the implementation of policies that specifically address violence against girls in schools at all levels.
- Work with Government to develop appropriate mechanisms for reporting and responding to cases of violence in schools.
- Ensure schools are responsive to the emotional and psycho-social needs of girls.

ActionAid Ghana will share and disseminate research results, best practices and lessons learnt from the Stop Violence against Girls in School project with government, like-minded NGOs and development partners to ensure prevention of violence against girls in school remains a national development agenda.

Join **ActionAid Ghana** and partners to
Stop Violence Against Girls in School

For more information, or to join the campaign contact:

**STOP
VIOLENCE
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